

[26th August 1926]

Famine.*Suitability of task tables for breaking stones.*

* 2343 Q.—**MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR**: With reference to replies given at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 2nd April 1924 to Question No. 859 and supplemental questions thereon, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have actually made any experiments to satisfy themselves of the suitability of the task tables for breaking stones of hard and medium quality and what the result of such experiments was; and

(b) the inquiries they made, and the persons of whom they made them and the replies they got?

A.—(a) & (b) No. To check the assumptions made in calculating the task tables with the data obtained as a result of experience, the Government have instructed the Chief Engineer in September last to collect figures for a fixed period, each time the tables are used, when relief works are in operation. The tables will be altered if experience proves that they are wrong.

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The task tables are prescribed with reference to the work turned out in normal times. Eighty per cent of the normal outturn is taken or some percentage of them is taken as task for famine coolies. If that is the case, I do not know whether there is any necessity for another famine to gain experience, which God forbid."

Indian Civil Service.*The question of amelioration of the depressed classes at the Collectors' Conference.*

* 2344 Q.—**MR. R. VEERIAN**: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any discussions took place or points were raised with reference to the amelioration of the depressed classes at the Collectors' Conference held recently at Ootacamund, especially on the following points:—

(i) denial of rights by the caste Hindus to the depressed classes when they pass through public pathways, roads, public offices, wells, tanks, etc.;

(ii) the relative spheres of activity of the Members of the Legislative Council especially the members representing the depressed classes and the District Officials in their relations with the depressed classes;

(iii) any measures adopted or suggested by the District Collectors to improve the status of the depressed classes at the conference; and

(b) whether the District Collectors inspect the Adi-Dravida cheris whenever they go on jamabandi with a view to understand the economic and other conditions personally?

A.—(a) (i), (ii) & (iii) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Communiqué, dated the 17th June 1926. The answer is in the negative.

(b) The Government have no reason to suppose that District Collectors do not inspect cheris when there is any reason why they should inspect them.